

abortions in the United States. However, barriers to information and access hinder this preventative contraceptive method from reaching its full potential. We can and we must do more to protect women's reproductive health by increasing knowledge of emergency contraception and expanding access to this critical preventative solution.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to co-sponsor my bill today.

COMMENDING THE PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY FOR FIFTY YEARS OF VISIONARY SERVICE AND STEWARDSHIP

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) of Auburn, California in celebration of 50 years of outstanding public service. Founded in 1957 as a result of the commitment of community leaders with an unusual sense of vision to develop and protect water resources within the County, the Agency has maintained the vision to address water resource needs across the 1,500 square miles of Placer County.

PCWA obtained federal and state licenses and permits and developed its Middle Fork American River Project which consists of two main reservoirs, a series of hydroelectric power plants and 24 miles of tunnels. The project, which was financed by the sale of electricity, today produces approximately one billion kilowatt hours of clean, green electricity annually.

The Agency has assisted water districts, cities and acquired and upgraded previously existing and antiquated water systems in Placer County, enabling it to provide retail and wholesale water to needy areas within the County; provided financial assistance to water districts within the County for the conservation and development of water supplies and facilities; and continues to focus on preserving water quality and enacting water use efficiencies that ensure a safe and reliable water supply for the region.

PCWA understands its role as an environmental steward to the watersheds of the County and continues to work in good faith with federal, state and local community stakeholders.

Madam Speaker, I commend and congratulate the Board of Directors, management and employees of the Placer County Water Agency for 50 successful years of vision, stewardship and dedicated service to the people of Placer County and for working to preserve the County's rich water resources while also working to provide clean, renewable energy for the benefit of future generations in Placer County.

REAUTHORIZATION OF UNDERGROUND RAILROAD EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAM

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2707 reauthorizing the activities of the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program through FY 2012.

Passed in 1998, the original amendment to the Higher Education Act of 1965 authorized the Secretary of Education, in consultation and cooperation with the Secretary of the Interior, to make grants to nonprofit educational organizations established to research, display, interpret, and collect artifacts related to the history of the Underground Railroad.

I commend my colleague Representative KUCINICH for his hard work on this issue and this legislation.

Since its passage, the program's centerpiece in Cincinnati—the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center—has become a nationally important cultural center and valuable education resource center, reaching more than 160,000 school-age children and their teachers who have toured the Freedom Center. The changing exhibitions as well as the pre- and post-visit teaching curriculum have offered valuable opportunities for our children to learn from and be inspired by the lessons of the history of the Underground Railroad.

I am also proud of Amistad America, an initiative based in New Haven, Ct., which has been able to receive funding from the Department of Education through The Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program. By bringing together local organization advocates, educators, and historians, the Amistad America recognizes and honors the historical and educational significance of the Freedom Schooner Amistad Ship.

In 1839, 53 Africans were illegally kidnapped from Sierra Leone and sold into the transatlantic slave trade. The captives were brought to Havana, Cuba, aboard the Portuguese vessel *Tecora*, where they were fraudulently classified as native-born Cuban slaves then sold to Spaniards Jose Ruiz and Pedro Montez, who transferred them to the coastal cargo schooner, *La Amistad*.

While being transferred from Havana, Cuba, up the coast in the *Amistad*, the African captives revolted after 3 days and ordered the schooner to head east back to their native Africa. On the evening of the rebellion, the *Amistad* was secretly directed back west and up the coast of North America, where after 2 months the Africans were seized and arrested in New London, Ct.

The captives were jailed and awaited trial in New Haven, Ct. The case became historic when former President John Quincy Adams argued on behalf of the enslaved Africans before the U.S. Supreme Court, winning their freedom.

This summer the Freedom Schooner *Amistad*, a recreation of the original *Amistad* embarked from New Haven on its first transatlantic voyage to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

The journey is an opportunity to call to public attention the evils of slavery, the struggle

for freedom, and the restoration of human dignity. As with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, each of these institutions remind us that even the darkest hours of our Nation's history can ultimately provide the tools for change.

STENNIS CONGRESSIONAL INTERN PROGRAM

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, for 5 years now, the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service has conducted a program for summer interns working in congressional offices. This 6-week program is designed to enhance their internship experience by giving them an inside view of how Congress really works. It also provides an opportunity for them to meet with senior staff and other experts to discuss issues ranging from the influence of the media and lobbyists on Congress to Congress's power of the purse.

The program is a joint effort of the Stennis Center and a collection of current and former senior congressional staff leaders who are serving as Senior Stennis Fellows. These fellows use their experience and expertise to design the program and to participate in each of the interactive sessions and panel discussions.

Interns are selected for this program based on their college record, community service background, and interest in a career in public service. This year, 29 outstanding interns, most of them juniors and seniors in college, who are working for Democrats and Republicans in both personal and committee offices in the House and Senate participated.

Mr. President, I congratulate the interns for their participation in this valuable program and I thank the Stennis Center and the Senior Stennis Fellows for providing such a unique experience for these interns and for encouraging them to consider a future career in public service.

I ask unanimous consent that a list of 2007 Stennis congressional interns and the offices in which they work be printed in the RECORD.

Yaser Ali of the University of Florida interning in the Office of Senator Bill Nelson
Sue Banerjee of Northwestern University interning in the Office of Representative Nick Lampson

David Bodner of Virginia Tech University interning in the Office of Representative Howard Berman

Andrew Briggs of Knox College interning in the Office of Senator Herb Kohl

Jeff Burdette of the University of Maryland interning in the House Veterans' Committee

Sarah Coppersmith of Washington University interning in the Office of Representative Harry Mitchell

Sarah Cummings of Bucknell University interning in the Office of Representative Phil English

Dominic Day of Vanderbilt University interning in the Office of Representative Donna Christensen

Marsha Dixon of the University of Florida Law School interning in the House Ways and Means Committee

Sean Evins of Rhodes College interning in the Office of Senator Jim DeMint